GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1380
ANSWERED ON:31.07.2001
PRIVATISATION OF WATER SUPPLY
SAVSHIBHAI MAKWANA

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have privatised the water supply in the country;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) the private water supply agencies functioning in Gujarat;

(d) the total investments made by the Union Government and the funds provided to the State; and

(e) the steps being taken to overcome the acute shortage of water?

Answer

MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT & POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI JAGMOHAN)

(a)&(b): No, Sir, Since water supply is a State subject, It is forthe State Governments to take a decision regarding privatization of the services. The Ministry of Urban Developmentand Poverty Alleviation is rendering all possible assistnce to the State Governments to initiate the process of private sector participation through policy formulation and exposure to international experience in this areas.

(c): Government of Gujarat had reported that water supply in the State has not been privatized.

(d): Under the Accelerated Urban Water Supply Programme (AUWSP) fotowns of less than 20,000 population, the Ministry of Urban Development & Poverty Alleviation has so far released total Central assistance of Rs.1094.82 lakhs to Government of Gujarat for 19 water supply schemes costing Rs.2750.15 lakhs.

(e): The State Government had reported that adequate steps had beentaken to mitigate drinking water scarcity since October, 2000, by implementing drinking water master plan, pumping of Narmada water from Sardar Sarovar Reservoir, storage inPariej tank, distribution to various urban centers, implementation of emergency water supply schemes, installation of hand pumps, construction of tube wells, replacement of pumping machinery and supply of water through tankers.